

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7840

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMSRPSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 3058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINS, MASS, EAID, CD

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MALLOUM

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MALLOUM SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE THE EVENING OF AUGUST 4 AND REQUESTED A BRIEFING ON MY RECENT CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT WAS RELAXED, OPEN AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT AN HOUR'S CONVERSATION. WE COVERED THE PROSPECTS FOR BOTH MILITARY AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN CHAD.

1. I TOLD HIM THAT IN THE FIELD OF HIS GREATEST INTEREST, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, THERE WAS LITTLE.

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CHANGE IN OUR POSITION. I SAID THAT, AS HE KNEW, WE WERE EMBARKING ON A SMALL MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THIS AND HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPAND THE PROGRAM IN THE FUTURE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT, WHILE HE GREATLY APPRECIATED THE ASSISTANCE HE WAS GETTING FROM FRANCE, HE DID NOT IN THE LONG

RUN WANT TO BE SUPPORTED BY ONLY THE FORMER COLONIAL POWER.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF MILITARY MATERIEL, I POINTED OUT THERE WERE ONLY TWO POSSIBILITIES; THE FIRST BEING SOME CHANGE IN OUR LEGISLATION AND THE SECOND, ASSISTANCE IN PROCUREMENT OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT BY A THIRD COUNTRY. ON THE FIRST, THERE WERE SO MANY UNKNOWNNS IT SEEMED POINTLESS TO PURSUE THE MATTER AT PRESENT, BUT AGREED TO KEEP HIM INFORMED IF THERE WERE ANY DEVELOPMENTS. ON THIRD COUNTRY ASSISTNACE, I POINTED OUT THAT IF THE REORGANIZATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT INCLUDED IMPORTANT MOSLEMS IN HIGH POSITIONS, THE WAY WOULD BE OPEN FOR CHAD TO REAPPROACH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN. THE PRESIDENT AGREED AND SAID THAT FRENCH HAD MADE SAME SUGGESTION, AND HE WOULD FOLLOW IT UP AS SOON AS REORGANIZATION WAS COMPLETE. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID HE WAS MOVING SLOWLY TO BE SURE THAT ALL THE DETAILS WERE IN ORDER AND UNDERSTOOD BEFORE NEW FACES ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

3. IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTNACE, I ASSURED THE PRESIDENT THAT, DESPITE PRESSURE FOR CUTS IN FOREIGH ASSISTANCE, I BELIEVED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP OUR CHADIAN PROGRAMS IN TACT. HE OFFERED THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL COMMENT THAT, WHILE HE BELIEVE THE NATURE OF OUR PROGRAMS WAS IMPROVING, THEY WERE STILL NOT LARGE ENOUGH OR WELL ENOUGH TARGETED TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN CHAD. HE MADE A PARTICULARLY STRONG AND POINTED APPROACH FOR OUR PARTICIPATION IN CONSTRUCTION OF VITAL SEGMENT OF ROAD BETWEEN BONGOR AND LAI. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE HAD INCLUDED THIS IN OUR PROJECTED PROGRAMS AND WOULD PUSH IT VERY HARD.

4. UPON COMPLETION OF MAY PRESENTATION, PRESIDENT MALLOUM LAUNCHED INTO A WELL THOUGHTOUT ARGUMENT TYING LIBYAN AGGRESSION TOGETHER WITH A SOVIET PLAN FOR DOMINATING AFRICA. HE POINTED OUT THAT QADHAFI WAS ALREADY BECOMING ACTIVE IN NORTHERN NIGERIA, AND PROPHESED THAT IF CHAD FELL, NORTHERN NIGERIA WOULD BECOME QADHAFI'S NEXT TARGET. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD FOLLOWED OUR RECENT POLICY STATEMENTS ON AFRICA CLOSELY AND HE HOPED WE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF WAKINGUP. HE ADDED THAT, IN THEORY, HE AGREED COMPLETELY WITH THE IDEA OF AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS, BUT THAT

IN PRACTICE IT WAS IDEALISTIC NONSENSE; HE SAID ONE SIDE OF MOST AFRICAN DISPUTES HAD ALREADY ASSUMED A NON-AFRICAN ASPECT.

5. ON MILITARY OPERATIONS, PRESIDENT SAID THAT, WHILE THE SITUATION WAS CALM AT THE MOMENT, HE EXPECTED ANOTHER LIBYAN-SPONSORED ATTACK IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID THAT THE RECENT FRICTION BETWEEN LIBYA AND TOUBOU REBELS MADE IT IMPORTANT FOR QADHAFI TO MOVE NW TO EMBARRASS THE FRENCH AND HIS GOVERNMENT BEFORE FROLINAT MOMENTUM RAN DOWN. PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT MAIN PROBLEMS BETWEEN TOUBOUS AND LIBYANS WERE NOT IDEOLOGICAL OR NATIONALISTIC, BUT SIMPLY THOSE OF MILITIA MEN
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FIGHTING FAR FROM HOME (HE ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF HIS SOUTHERN TROOPS IN THE NORTH, HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM.)

6. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE REMAINED READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE REBELS OR LIBYANS, BUT THAT AT THE MOMENT, UNLESS OAU ACTED, THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ANY FORUM IN WHICH TO NEGOTIATE. HE DID NOT MENTION FRENCH/LIBYA TALKS, NOR DID I RAISE THE SUBJECT. BRADFORD

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